

DAVID TARR, OF THE FIRM OF JAMES G. TARR & BRO.

GLOUCESTER, MASS.--INTERVIEWED BY WILLIAM

WAKEHAM AND HUGH M. SMITH, NOV.

18, 1893.

Began fishing at nine years of age ^{and continued} until he was 23. There were only a few purse seines at that time, about 1858.

Have no hand-line fishermen in this country to amount to anything. Sent one vessel, the David Sherman, hooking this summer.

Think the southern fishery is not a paying one. Had 2 vessels south this year and they did not get a barrel of fish. That fishery has always been unprofitable. Never been a paying voyage for 20 years.

The close season did not affect the fishery except those who made a specialty of early fishing.

On the whole the hook would be less destructive than the purse seine, but do not think they will ever bring it about now.

The mackerel fishery as prosecuted at the present time may be compared to the liquor question. We know it is an evil, but cannot stop it. If we could do away with all seines, would like to put

them all in a furnace and burn them, but cannot get fishermen to go any other way.

Had 2 vessels this year with \$1,800 worth of seines and boats, that went for two months and a half and never got a solitary fish. Down on the Cape Shore one vessel got 16, and the other 37 barrels of fish. They were careful not to break the Canadian laws.

There were years that mackerel were extremely scarce. Has known a good many years when vessels when vessels would go with hook and line and get 100 to 150 barrels for the season.

There were some of the largest schools on this coast this fall than ever--schools 50 acres in extent. Knows of one case where they rowed right through a school and got 50 barrels, and the fish did not sink on either side of them.

The fish are shyer now than they used to be. When the water is cool it is impossible to catch them in the day time. They will dive the seines. Most of the fishing done this fall here has been at night.

The old hook and line fishing began in May. That is, they went south in May. They usually went south in May, and came home and started for the Bay along the middle or last of June, and from

that to the 4th of July.

Does not think the seines have any influence in keeping the fish away. They caught more fish in the old days with the hook and line than they do now. Had a larger fleet.

The quantity caught by seines is very small as compared with the mass of fish in the water, and the amount destroyed by other fish that prey upon them.

They expected to get lots of fish south this spring on account of the 5 years close season, but never did so poorly. Were lots of fish, but could not catch them.

Thinks the merchants generally who fit vessels would have no objection to a close season. Does not think the southern fishery has ever been any benefit. Has been in it 32 years, fitting vessels for it. They catch mackerel in the weirs down at Nova Scotia in the latter part of April or in May, when they come in. Thinks the close season was a good thing, if they could have had it a little earlier, say 20th of May, instead of 1st of June. Does not think the close season increased the supply of fish. Would not make hardly any difference. Do not catch enough to affect the schools. The fleet amounts

to only about 50 or 60 sails. During the summer might be 150 sails.

When they went with hook and line they would always get something, now with seines it is smartest captains and big crews that get the most fish.

Men get tired of codfishing in the spring, and go to Block Island or the coast of Maine, or the Bay.

Seines^r in the Bay have not caught many mackerel for some years in the spring and early in the fall. Vessels get only a few barrels in the fall. One vessel went down one fall and got 300 barrels.

Would be in favor of a renewal of the close time law, if they would make the date about 10 days earlier. Does not think the mackerel need any protection. Thinks there would be just as many on the coast if there was no close season. As regards the winter fishing, it is not profitable as a whole; except to a few experts, but to the average fisherman it is not profitable. It would be in the interest of the greatest number not to have any mackerel caught before the first of May.

Would not want to put any restriction on the purse seine, because could not get men to go with hook and line. Would not want any international

law doing away with the purse seine absolutely. Should want to get out of the business if there were any restrictions put upon fishermen who are fishing without(?) three miles of the shore. The ~~bulk of the~~ bulk of the fish were caught off shore when he used to go fishing. Not many places in the North Bay where they can fish within three miles without tearing their seines all to pieces.

Prohibiting the early fishing would be in the interests of owners of vessels.

In regard to the codfish, experts can have some idea about how they are going to work, but cannot tell about the bodies of mackerel.

Have been no small mackerel seen since 7 or 8 years ago until the present season.

When there used to be 200 or 300 sail of vessels go to the Bay and throw bait the quality of the mackerel down there was much better than it is now. Remembers the time when Bay mackerel sold for shore mackerel in this market.

Does not know of any legislation that would satisfy the fishermen. Bad to have much legislation in regard to the fisheries. Thinks they had better let the fishermen use any device they wish to catch

fish until it is very apparent that it is injurious to the fish.

Has fitted out the schooner "Jenny Severns" with 18 men and 2 seines, and the schooner "Commonwealth" with the same number of men and seines. On this coast we had the Richard Lester, Ralph E. Eaton, Epes Tarr and David Crockett. Those that went to Block Island got about enough to pay their bills. The David Sherman went to the Bay, she got 160 barrels. Would have got a full trip if it had not been for the weather--very stormy all the time. Those vessels that started late did fairly well considering, but the early ones only got about 200 barrels for the entire season on the Cape Shore in the spring. Did not do well. One vessel got 16 and the other 37 barrels.

The dealers, as a rule, would prefer that there were no southern fishery. Our vessels would inform on each other if they caught mackerel before the law was up.

Scientists like Prof. Baird do not think any contrivance of man would reduce the catch of mackerel.

They say when the mackerel come up from the warm water they have a sort of scale over their eyes

and it is very easy to catch them.

Knows no reason why mackerel should not be as numerous on our coast at some early day as they have been.

No extent of shore fishing carried on along this coast. There is trap fishing all up and down the coast, but do not take many mackerel in the early season.

Does not think the poor fishing of this year will affect the number of vessels sent out next year. Used to make lots of money in the mackerel fishery, but have not made a dollar for the last 5 years. Will probably be about the same number of vessels go south next year as this year; and should there be a fair catch south in May, the fleet would be doubled, because the Bank fishermen have not done much this year, and they would rush to go mackerel fishing if there was anything to catch. The Gloucester fishermen are rather in a bad way at present.

He is interested in the Iceland fishery. Vessels sent there this year got about enough to pay their bills. Only had one vessel at the Grand Banks fishery this year.

Thinks the mackerel will be larger next year,

if there is any prospect of catching fish.

The large bulk of the southern mackerel are sold fresh.

New York fish dealers do not want any close law.

There was considerable argument here in regard to the effect upon the fish that the seines would (?) We thought catching so many before spawning might decrease the number of fish on the shore.

Used to catch lots of small fish and let them go--hundreds and thousands of barrels. If these small mackerel would come on the coast and mix with the large ones they would catch thousands of barrels and heave them overboard. That waste of small fish has been kept up ever since the purse seine has been in use, but not every year. It has been irregular.

Do not suppose there could be any law passed to prohibit the use of purse seines outside for mackerel. Wishes there could be. Thinks the fishermen would catch more fish on the hook in the Bay. Most of the fish caught on the hook are caught after the spawning season is over, and they are better fish as a rule.

Vessels do not all use pockets.

Thinks if they could prohibit the use of seines we should be better off. Mackerel would bring a good price on the start, but they would soon catch just as many as ever. Sol Jacobs' brother has been fishing all summer and got only 82 barrels.

Could not say as to what fitters generally think about seines, but they all would like to see the southern fishery stopped.

The steam seine boat is not likely to come into general use. It is too expensive. The vessels using the steam seine boat this year have not done any better than other vessels. The "Augusta Herrick" and the "Greyling" used them this year. Experiments with steam seine boats generally have been unsuccessful here. There has been nothing new that they have got in the way of catching mackerel that has proved more than usually successful.

In 1884 we packed on our wharf 26,000 barrels of mackerel, and bought 15,000 barrels outside. Have not had much business with mackerel since. Prices did not run as high in 1884 as they do now.

CAPT. RUSSELL D. TERRY, GLOUCESTER, MASS.

Interviewed by William Wakeham and Hugh M.

Smith, November 18, 1893.

Aged 52. Has had 42 years' experience as a fisherman. Has been in the mackerel fishery most every season up to the present. Name of vessel, schooner Centennial.

Did not go south for mackerel this year. Has always been south before. Has found mackerel about 40 or 50 miles south of Cape Henry, about 40 miles offshore. Has been on the ground south sometime before seeing the;-- sometimes 10 days before we saw them. When we did see them they were heading N. N.E. as a general thing. Has seen them in as close as a mile from land, and again, off 30 or 40 miles. Generally follow them until they get up to Cape Cod, off Block Island. They lose the fish there, and that ends that voyage.

They generally strike them then in the Bay of Fundy. The fish strike through the South Channel down to the Bay of Fundy.

Has seen fish south of Georges. They appear to remain there, but some say they pass down to the Cape Shore. See fish south every year that go on Georges and do not strike this coast at all.

Mackerel have a very regular course. They strike anywhere from close in to 30 or 40 miles off.

Those early fish are very poor. They are full of spawn. Has seen the spawn run out of them quite freely when on deck of vessel. That would be along about May. When they first strike the shore they are full of spawn. Are full of it about the middle of May. Generally have the spawn in them until we leave them. The fish on the Cape Shore also have the spawn in them.

They fit for the Cape Shore along about

the 25th of May. Find fish on the Shore for 2 months, but only fish there about 10 days. Some of these fish go through Canso---lots of them. Has never seen schools there, but has seen people that have caught them there. Some of them come out through Canso in the fall also. Has followed fish in the fall as far as south as about 15 or 20 miles off Chatham. Leave the fish there on account of the weather. Might catch them later if the weather permitted. Catch them off Chatham sometimes as late as the 25th of November. Those fish, we presume, come from the Bay of Fundy, but cannot say for certain. Since the Has never caught mackerel in the winter. Never knew anyone on the coast to take them then. Along about the 4th of November they are supposed to be done schooling.

When he was a boy, about 40 years ago, used to fish off Cape Cod the 25th of November,

but now do not go much longer than the 25th of October.

Mackerel feed upon different things. Presume they feed on sun-squalls; sometimes brit, and various things. We find these things in them. Sometimes come across a school with this cayenne in them. It will poison your hands when you take out the inwards.

Mackerel average about the same size as they did 20 years ago. Some years larger, some years smaller.

Does not notice any difference in the habits or movements of mackerel. Since the seining began they school a good deal more than they did before. Does not know that they can catch them quite as easy in the seines now as they used to when they first went seine fishing but does not think there is much difference.

Was on a voyage a number of years ago off Block Island, when they would heave all day

until 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon and would not catch a fish, and then probably within an hour every vessel would catch a school. The spring fish are harder to catch than the fall fish. Spring fish are most always running and summer fish are lying quiet.

Fish are more easily caught about the time of spawning than at other times, he thinks. Has never noticed that they lose the fish about the time of spawning. Fish are governed a good deal by the tide in schooling, and also by the weather.

Has not seen, for the last 5 or 6 years, one-hundredth part as many mackerel as they did 20 years ago. Does not know what has become of them,--whether they have taken a different route, or what,--they do not appear to come on the coast. Does not think they have been caught up. Does not think they catch a thousandth part of the mackerel that come along in the spring. Has seen some days, more

mackerel, apparently, than the vessels caught during the whole year.

Does not think there was any benefit in the close time law. It was passed to help the mackerel, and as a general thing the southern fishery was not a paying business.

Used to do better on an average, when they went hooking than they do seining. The whole fleet used to make a better average on the whole. Forty years ago there was more mackerel fishing carried on at Cape Cod than there has been for the last 15 or 20 years. When he was a boy there were three firms running there, and from 8 to 10 vessels in each firm, and most always engaged in the mackerel business, but now there is no fishing there at all, hardly. They used to share more evenly hooking than they do seining. One year, about 30 years ago we had a bad year hooking, but as a general thing they averaged about the same. The vessels expected to make a good

voyage every year. Used to carry 15 men hooking. Vessels were about 40 to 50 tons. The cost to fit out a vessel for hooking, for the fishing gear, was not more than \$10. or \$15. Now it costs to fit a vessel for sein-ing about \$2,500., that is for a new outfit.

The general opinion of the fishermen was that the close time law did not do any good. Does not think a man of them would like to see it renewed. Do not like anything that is compulsory. Like more freedom.

Does not think there should be any regulations, as far as the east fishery is concerned. Thinks the mackerel will come back in time. 16 years ago, the fishing was very good, and he thought the next season was going to be a good one, so he went to work and built a new vessel, and the result was, when the season came around it was a failure, and was a failure for 2 or 3 years, and they thought there would be no fishing, but they came again

more plenty than ever; and we have those spells all along.

Does not think the introduction of the purse seine has been a good thing. Thinks it has been an injury to the fishing community at large. Does not know whether it decreases the quantity of fish or not,--may possibly. Do not catch as many fish with the purse seine as we used to in the old days.

In the year 1831 more fish caught than at any time since. They used to catch from 1400 to 1500 barrels on the hook in a good vessel. Have shared as high as \$500. a man on the hook.

Thinks if they should remove the purse seines there would be a good many men abandon the business. Does not think they could catch as many fish with the hook and line as they did formerly, for the reason that the fish seem to have forgotten how to bite. Thinks the fish would come back again if they all went hooking. Thinks, in that case, a larger number would be

benefitted by it than are to-day. Lots of boys who are not large enough and strong enough to handle the seine could catch them with the hook; and old men also. Purse seines throw a good many old men and boys out of employment. They want men now about from 18 to 45. For seining you want a good active crew and a smart sailing vessel.

Did not catch enough fish south this year to eat. His vessel was gone about 2 months and got only 47 barrels. When he was a boy used to start south about the 10th of May, some times not until the 20th. Used to make 2 trips in those days, and get about from 150 to 300 barrels a trip. The second trip would be about the 4th of July. Used to fish part of the time, and come in and get our toll bait, and circle around on the southern end of Georges and go home; then went to the Bay of Fundy.

Never saw a purse seine south until about

15 years ago. The seine fishery in the spring on the Cape Shore, began about 8 or 10 years ago. Now some of the best fishing done there. Formerly never used to go there. Never used to think of going to the Cape Shore.

CAPT. JOHN J. PENTACOST, GLOUCESTER, MASS.

Interviewed by William Wakeham and

Hugh M. Smith, November 18, 1893.

Aged 47. Has had 37 years experience as a fisherman. A great part of that time in the mackerel fishery. Name of vessel, schooner Mystery. Did not go mackerel fishing in her this year. Went fishing for mackerel, but went in the Marguerite Haskins.

Has been master of a vessel mackerel fishing 5 or 6 years. In 1872 was master of a vessel mackerel fishing in the North Bay. Was in the Flying Scud.

Used to go south to get mackerel a good deal. Generally looked for the fish off the Capes of Virginia, about 35 or 40 miles off shore. Been down there the 1st of April. Look for them about that time. Has been vessels go there earlier, but did not get many

fish. Has been there before fish were caught there.

Does not know what direction they come from when he meets them. They are generally heading about N. N.E.

Has followed those spring bodies from off the Capes of Virginia clear to Gaspe. Has never been to the Seven Islands.

The further north the fish get on our coast the nearer they come in shore. Never look for fish within 6 or 7 miles of land along southward of Delaware, and after they get up by Barnegat and New York, catch them within a mile of land.

Spring mackerel go south of Georges. Strike about Cape Sable. The fish strike the Nova Scotia shore before we get them in the Bay of Fundy. About the 10th to 15th of May begin to catch scattering ones along about Cape Sable. Do not catch many fish on the

Cape Shore until the first of June. Get them right along the shore.

Those that come to the south of Georges strike the Cape and follow the shore down. Schools split at the Cape and go in two separate bodies. No difference in the size of these bodies of fish. One day get 17 and 18 inch mackerel and another day, right in the same place, 10 to 13 inch. The earliest fish are the largest. Will find large bodies of these small mackerel, but did not see as many as usual this spring.

The fish this spring at the south were in deeper water than I have ever known them to be, in 60 and 70 fathoms of water.

The fish south this spring did not seem to be so very shy, but they were scarcer, were not so many schools.

When we find these fish at the south they are poor and full of spawn. The spawn seems not to be very far advanced, but it gets ripper

all the time. The last fish caught there, sometimes the spawn is running right out of them. The last we got this spring about 70 miles from Barnegat, had ripe spawn in them. That was about the 15th or 16th of May. The spawn would run from them when we threw them on the deck. They were most all male fish. Were full of milt.

The first fish we caught this year were off White Head, the 1st or 2nd of June.

Has followed mackerel in the fall no farther than Block Island. None of our vessels go any further than that. Does not know why they give up the fishing at Block Island then, except that it is getting late and the weather bad, and do not find but few fish.

Give up mackerel fishing on this shore about the 15th of November. Have caught them up to about Thanksgiving, and at Provincetown Harbor nearly as late as Christmas.

Mackerel take the same course when leaving the coast that they do when coming on the coast.

The only difference he can notice in the habits of mackerel since he has been fishing is that they do not take the hook as they used to. Occasionally try them with the hook.

When we used to go to the Bay, left here in June. Has been in the Bay, in 1865, on the 11th of June, and caught a barrel of mackerel himself off North Cape, P. E. I., but then the fleet used to go in the Bay early, and would get to heaving lots of bait. Probably the heaving of so much bait has a tendency to stop the fish. Now there is so little bait that they do not pay any attention to it; at least they do not bite as they used to.

Does not think the Bay mackerel spawn as early as they do on this shore. Thinks they keep going until they get ready to spawn, and wherever they are at that time, there they stop

and spawn. None of the fish they catch on their early spring voyage have spawned.

Some of them are as fat as any we catch during the year. They are barren fish. Only get a very few of such fish. Thinks they spawn in the Bay about the last of June.

Generally get to the Cape Shore about the 1st of June. The best fishing on the Cape Shore is from the 1st to the 10th of June. They follow the fish as far as Cape North and there they lose them.

Pretty hard to tell about the habits of mackerel. Was master of a vessel in the Bay hooking 22 years ago, and has seen it right through his life that you would heave bait for mackerel and perhaps catch half a dozen just as fast as you could haul a line, and then they would be gone all at once,

We call their feed cayenne, all-eyes and sand fleas. See more live feed now than we did 10 years ago.

In the old times when he went hand line fishing did not see the fish schooling so much as they do now. Has been in the Bay and caught a number of trips of mackerel, and never saw a school during the whole season. Never saw but one school at the Magdalen's come to the surface for heaving bait.

Do not notice any difference in the size of the fish now from what they were 10 years ago. There are large and small ones. Some years more large fish than small ones, other years vice versa.

Never remembers fish being so scarce on this shore as they were this year, and they are all large fish. Never knew them to run so large. All he caught on the Cape Shore this year were 1's and 2's. Got 46 barrels in the Bay this year, and they were all large fish,-- nearly all 1's.

Those fish we get in the Bay are hardly ever as fat as those we get on this shore.

Sometimes get what we call white-bellied fish.

In the Bay get dark-bellied fish. Get both kinds at the south, both dark and light. Get

better fish on the north side of Magdalen's than on the south side. Does not know the reason. No difference in the marking between the dark fish and the light ones.

About the spawning time thinks the fish are more logy and sluggish. No trouble to catch them then. They seem to disappear about the time they spawn. They stay down about 10 or 15 days to spawn. Sometimes will catch fish with half the spawn out of them. Do not extrude the whole of their spawn at one time.

When they get through spawning and come up you will find them in small bunches; perhaps a barrel in a school. Keep increasing until they get to be a big school. When they all get through spawning they get in a big body.

Did not use to begin fishing as early as we do now. Never used to go south until along

in May, and never went so far south as we do now. Along about the 1st or 15th of May were off New York.

Did not do any fishing on the Cape Shore in those days,--not until 12 or 15 years ago. The heaviest fleets would leave for the Bay about the 4th of July, but some would leave the 1st of June. A few vessels would go in the Bay instead of going south.

For the last 3 or 4 years mackerel have been scarce everywhere; that is nobody could find them. Mackerel were as plenty 10 or 12 years ago on this shore as they ever were in the remembrance of anybody. Cannot account for the decrease in their abundance, unless it is that they have taken some other course.

Does not think too many fish have been caught. Thinks there are more caught now before the spawning season than there used to be in old times. The fish that were caught in the Bay in hooking days had all spawned,

except the ones we caught in June. Always a dull time in the Bay about the 10th to 20th of July, on account of the spawning. The hooking lasted in the Bay in those days until about the 10th of November, and sometimes later.

Never went seining with the purse seine until about 1864, and since then the fish have been as plenty along this shore as they were before, so does not think it hurts them any. Thinks one trap or pound is worse than 25 seines. Of course the seines break up the schools. Frequently catch every fish in a school with the seines. The traps and pounds along the shore are worse than anything else. If they are going to do away with anything, he would do away with the traps before he would the purse seines. The traps catch the young fish as well as the big ones.

Never but one or two years that they

caught fish at the south and had to throw them away. One year vessels caught small mackerel at the south (He went in the Ellen M. Adams) and took them in to New York, and there were other vessels there from the north with large ones, and we had to heave about all our fish overboard. That was about 9 or 10 years ago. Sold \$2.50 and threw the rest overboard. In those days could not sell small fish, but now can sell any kind.

Does not think the close season amounted to anything. Fish were no more plenty south this year than the last year we were there; if anything not so plenty. The object was, that it would be a good law to stop the vessels from going south, and they would not have to fit up any vessels for that voyage. It was not a paying voyage. That was the principal reason for passing the close law. This law was first started in Portland, Me. Does not think it affected the fish at all. This

spring we landed about 240 or 250 barrels at the south; that is not salted. One time we had about 22,000, another time 5,000 fish. Sold them all the way from 10 to 20 cents apiece.

Would not be in favor of regulating the purse seine fishery in any way that he knows of. Thinks the only way to regulate the seine fishery is for every man to destroy his seine. Does not think it has been any advantage to anybody, all things considered. Some of those men who did well hooking, when they went to seining, lost every dollar they had. Some gained and others lost by the purse seine. He has done very well with it. It is a nice way to catch fish. They are saved in just as good order as with the hook and line fishing. Very seldom have any bad fish. It is like this:--you go out and set your seine and get 100 barrels of mackerel in

one school. You have 16 or 17 men, and in 3 or 4 hours the men have these fish all dressed. In hooking you may lay 3 or 4 hours catching them. Can take care of fish much quicker now than formerly.

The poorest fish that come into these markets are caught in boats around Prince Edwards Island and Magdalen Islands.

If the purse seine was given up, might possibly educate the mackerel to take the hook as they used to do, but would have to educate the fishermen also. If they would go into the Bay and heave as much bait as they used to do, 300 and 400 barrels, it would attract the attention of the fish, and they might bite like they used to do. These men who have always done well seining would not sanction anything to stop it.

Fish school just according to the feed. If it is on top of the water, the fish will be on top of the water. If on the bottom, the fish will be on the bottom.

CAPTAIN JOHN F. VAUTIER, GLOUCESTER, MASS.--INTER-
VIEWED BY WILLIAM WAKEHAM AND HUGH M.

SMITH, NOVEMBER 18, 1893.

Aged 32. Has been fishing for 23 years. Captain of Schooner "Rapid Transit", of Gloucester, 1893.

Did not go south this year. Was on the Banks up to September.

Has been in the southern fishery. Was at it for about 10 years. Got a fair catch there every spring.

Usually struck the fish on the southern coast about the capes of Delaware, and a few springs got them down as far south as Cape Charles.

Find the fish 35 to 45 miles off shore there. One spring they were within 8 or 10 miles. As they got up toward New York were right close into the beach. When this school is close in shore there is another school off outside 50 or 60 miles. They are going to the eastward. Suppose they go to the southward of Georges.

Never followed a school south of Georges; that is, never followed them all the time. One spring

found the fish at Sandy Hook, and then followed them way to the south of South Shoal Light Ship. They were bound to the southward of Georges, and if they kept on in that direction would probably strike Cape Sable and the Nova Scotia shore.

When they stop fishing in the spring leave the fish out around Block Island. 2 or 3 years found them this side of Nantucket Shoals. One year in May we came over the Shoals and found fish there; and worked further to the eastward and got a school in deeper water.

These fish we get in the south spring fishery have spawn in them. This spawn gets ripe sometime in June. Get a very few fish in this fishery that have spawned. When we first catch them in the spring do not dress them, so cannot tell. Never salt these fish. Always run them in fresh. After the 1st of May they salt them sometimes. Never make a regular practice of it.

Look for fish in the Bay of Fundy and Cape Cod Bay after the first of June, but not much done in the Bay of Fundy until the middle of June.

Thinks some of the fish they see in the southern fishery come on the New England shore.

Thinks mackerel spawn on this coast; some on the Long Island coast, and from that to the Bay of Fundy, and up as far as they go in the Gulf.

Cannot say exactly how long the southern fishery has been carried on with seines, but thinks about 30 years. They did not go down south as early 30 years ago as they do now. When he first began fishing, used to sail south about the 15th to 30th of April. Reach the grounds about the first of May. Did not go as far south then as they do now. Never went down there hooking.

Been fishing on the Nova Scotia shore for about 20 years. Would not be there in the summer time. First began to go there in the spring on the Cape Shore 8 years ago. Other vessels had been going there about 3 years before that. Never went there before that because did not know there were fish there. Has not gone for the last three years. Always did well when he did go there. Would expect to find the fish there about the 1st of June or 28th of May.

Generally expect to find them first around Cape Sable. Has followed them as far north as Cape North. Never followed them into the Bay in the spring.

Those fish had not spawned. The spawn was in them, and was ripe. They were large fish, most all of them.

The early schools are larger fish generally than the later schools. That spring fishery is very short. Over about the 15th or 20th of June at the outside. The fish are going along the coast quite rapidly. They are pretty shy at that time. Expects it is due to the fact that it is getting near their spawning time.

Has followed fish in the fall no further than the south of Block Island, and then did not see any. The last fish they saw was off Cape Cod.

Has never caught mackerel in the winter. Has seen probably a dozen when herring fishing in the Bay of Fundy, along in January. Caught them in the herring nets.

Has never known mackerel to be found on Western Bank. On the Cape Shore has not found mackerel outside of 25 miles. Has taken them that far off. They were going along shore to the eastward. Were running parallel with the shore. Not going directly into land.

Has noticed different kinds of fish preying

upon the mackerel, and driving the schools. Has seen blue-fish and bonitos. Saw lots of them this fall. They give the mackerel a great deal of trouble. Seem to drive them pretty fast. Has known them to drive them close in shore. See more or less blue-fish and bonitos every year. Find the blue-fish chasing the mackerel most all seasons of the year on some parts of the coast. Does not think he ever saw them chasing the mackerel in the spring fishery at the south. Would find blue-fish no further north than this side of the Bay of Fundy on the coast of Maine. Never below Grand Manan. Has seen bonitos inside of the Seal Islands. No difference in the size of the fish now and those caught when he first went fishing.

Not much difference in the behavior of the fish. When we first went fishing there would be weeks when we would not see them schooling.

Never knew fish so scarce as they have been for the last five years. This year there was a large body of fish on the coast here, but they did not show.

Late this fall saw as many fish as he ever did. They were from Monhegan to Minot Rock. Those fish

appeared somewheres about the middle of September. Had not many fish been seen along there before that.

Those large schools of fish this year were very large fish, nice and fat.

The mackerel they take on the southern voyage and on the Bay Shore are about all 3's. Occasionally find a few fat fish among these early ones.

About the spawning time every year the fish seem to go down. They disappear in the Bay of Fundy, in the Bay Chaleur and on the New England coast. Stay down sometimes a week or fortnight. Some years they come up in a body. Does not think they will take the hook about spawning time.

He has had no experience hook and line fishing on this coast. Get a few on the hooks in the fall. Has been tolling fish up and setting seines, probably about 15 years. Got 80 barrels of mackerel one time by tolling them up with bait and then setting seines around the vessel.

Thought it was a good thing to try the close time law and see if it would be any benefit. Thinks it is a little too soon to tell whether it has been any benefit or not. Thinks the body of the fish on this coast is more than 5 years old. Does not think the law was much benefit, because they caught

the fish before they spawned anyway. Does not think what vessels go on the mackerel fishery at that time of the year, hurt the mackerel catch.

Thinks next year they will have a good catch of mackerel. Does not think the present scarcity will continue. Have had three poor years in succession before this. Has no opinion as to the reason of the scarcity. Does not think all the fish have been caught up. Thinks they take some other course. It is due to some natural causes.

Years ago those old folks on Newfoundland would say mackerel were an injury to them, there were so many. They left that coast 15 or 20 years ago. Has been a few fish caught there 10 or 12 years ago along the Bay St. George. Began to get scarce there before they did on this shore.

Seven years ago got three trips of mackerel in the Bay Chaleur.

Does not think the purse seine will hurt the fish any. Does not think it makes them any wild. Saw a school caught this summer of about 200 barrels, on Monhegan that were very tame. The weather has a good deal to do with catching fish. The thicker the weather the better chance to get a school

Used to fish some in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Thinks the purse seine fishing is all right there.

Not much been made out of the purse seine fishery of late years. Thinks if they had hung to hooks they would do better than they do now. The greater number of vessels that go and heave bait the more fish they will get. Does not think the average as good as in old times.

Does not think the fish caught with hook and line are in any better condition than those taken with the purse seine. The gill-net fish do not look so well. Does not know of any difference in the market value between hook and line and the purse seine fish. Of the 240 barrels he caught, he saved them all in good condition. Had caught 200 barrels this year before that. About the middle of September had 520 odd barrels.

Fishing about 15 or 20 years ago. That is

about as early as they began to catch fish

and run them into New York. Before that time

used to go off Nore Island; that was the

farthest; some might have gone as far as New

York.

In the beginning time the fish both in